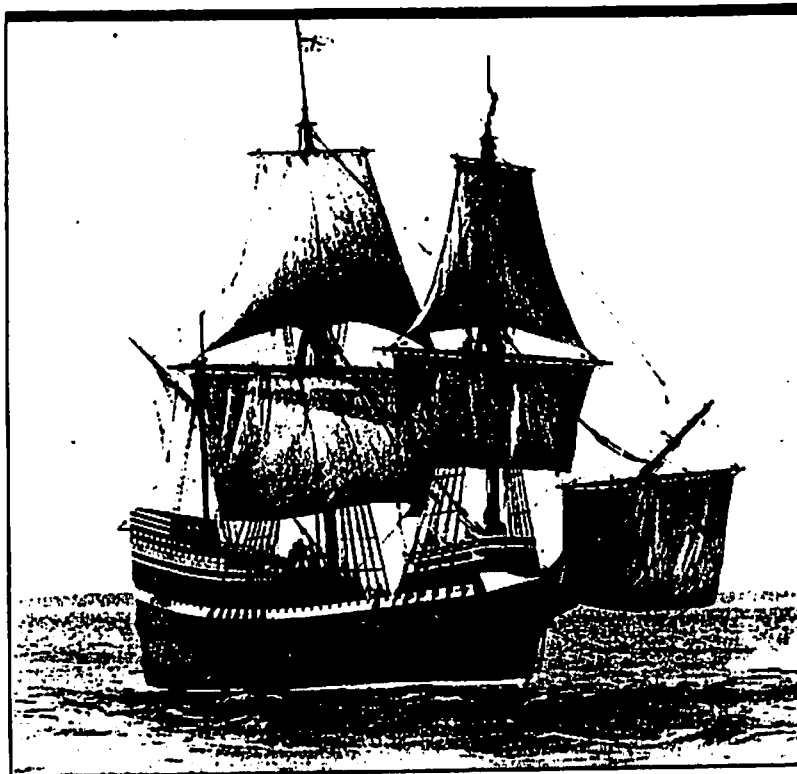


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File photo

Mayflower II was in Fairhaven for repairs.

Our ship's come in

The *Mayflower II* returns to Plymouth

By Dave Copeland
MPG Newspapers

PLYMOUTH — Curious onlookers lined the banks of the Cape Cod Canal Sunday morning to watch the *Mayflower II* pass by on its return trip to Plymouth.

The 40-year-old replica of the Pilgrim ship had been in a Fairhaven dry dock since Jan. 11 for repairs to the hull and the main mast, as well as a Coast Guard inspection.

"Everything went beautifully," Plimoth Plantation spokesman Carol City said. "The trip took a little longer than we had anticipated, mainly because of the windy weather, but all and all it was flawless."

The *Mayflower II* had been slated to return to Plymouth at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon after a six hour trip from Kelly's Shipyard in Fairhaven. The ship eventually returned to its berth on Plymouth's waterfront at 2:30. It was the second delay for the *Mayflower II* — the ship had originally been slated to spend just two weeks in Fairhaven.

"It was mostly a weather issue," City said. "They had days they couldn't work on it, then they had to wait to line up the tugboat again." The repairs were part of a 2½ year restoration project. City said many of the repairs have been scheduled for the summer months so tourists can see what kind of work is done to maintain the wooden ship.